

GROUP 8

Presented by Kelly Rose and Cindy_____

General themes

Daylighting all water connections – people don't see any water at the wetlands

Loop trails- connected, controlled, continuous

Pedestrian bridge

Ability to walk safely to Playa del Rey

Habitat diversity – all habitat types, with interpretive signs

Add treatment wetland on C along 90 Freeway, with public access to show importance of water quality, what treatment wetlands do, and why.

Lots of seasonal wetlands

Concept 1

Create access to treatment wetlands for education, esp. at Little League

Didn't change freshwater marsh, concern that if you link to riparian corridor at base of bluff, may change its function

Concept 2

Daylight channels

Make riparian corridor continuous

Questions about sources of water

Concept 3

See access concept 1

Make wide ocean connection – daylight – good for fisheries

Concern about water quality in creek, keep separate basin in A for water from creek

Make little part of B seasonal wetland

Concept 4

Create upland islands and other high spots in the marsh

Developed their own 4.2

Create basins within (halibut)

Lots of water

Trails along new berms (flood protection)

High marsh along the river

Access pull out hwy 1 – b/w A & C = favored access map

GROUP 7

Presented by Rex Frankel and Kat Prickett

General themes

Reaction to #1 #4 overwhelming (negative) – no specific comments didn't want to validate those concepts

Fresh water treatment wetland should be off site – have water clean when it comes in
Some wanted to expand muted tidal in B, some wanted to expand riparian corridor, others felt it was good mix

Treatment wetland ok if tech details addressed (size appropriate, feasibility)

Little league: build on facility's activity – pollywog pond (in existing basin), picnicking, etc. could # fields be reduced?

Liked Access Concepts 2-3

Perimeter paths good around each area

Paths on berms to allow views into site

Limit # of paths across areas – don't increase fragmentation, used raised paths

Consider cul de sac paths – path to water area – out and back

Pedestrian – bike paths across Ballona creek

Bridge b/w A & C – using existing platforms would limit construction impacts

Try to avoid impacts to Lincoln Blvd

Use area under adjacent to Marina Fwy as parking area for staging point on C

Habitat Concepts – focused on 2 and 3;

Within Concept 3: Could have open water in tidal Area A

If you could relocate Little League could restore upland there to make up for the lack of upland in Concept 3

GROUP 6

Presented by Ann Dalkey

General themes

Concerns (commonality)

Want working ecosystem

Protect existing wildlife, phase in restoration

Connection between the water bodies:

relink Ballona Creek and Marina del Rey

Parking and visitor experience,

Keep trails to perimeter don't put board walks thru center creates problems with predators

Berm Culver Blvd with the fill – raise the road and build connections under

Plan for sea level rise

Concept 1

Too many habitats – little pieces all on a small area

Does allow visitors to see all types

Make sure habitats are functional

Need surveys to delineate what is out there before you begin to change things

Concept 2

Concerns about salt pannes – don't lose those
Connections between water bodies

Concept 3

Create a hybrid of 2-3?
Concept 3 has too much water

Concept 4

Lack of upland, didn't like at all, designed new version based upon "plan view" graphic
Concern about water quality in Ballona Creek- hopefully will improve in time. [Link](#)
Ballona Creek to wetland
Want to see the full range of habitats from the plan view graphic imposed over Concept 4

GROUP 5

Presented by Curt Steindler

General themes

Only liked concept 1
Little change
Preserve/use existing topography
Repairing the ecosystem is not possible
Have ecosystem that works, so lets make small changes
Maximize existing upland, nothing close enough to act as upland in this system
Benefits the most vertebrates except fish –
Differing opinion about deep water channels (some said Marina Del Rey sufficient deep water habitat)
Flood control – current layout doesn't flood
Need to plan for Sea Level Rise –
One member suggested closing off Centinela Creek and rerouting the creek through the treatment wetland in Playa Vista's riparian corridor
Daylight culvert from Freshwater Marsh
Water quality concern for the whole system, if you increase connection you will contaminate the wetland – don't overburden the system
Nutrient enrichment does not necessarily represent pollution but a potentially important component of the food web Increase direct access of ocean to B, remove north levee of Ballona Creek b/w Marina del Rey
Consider direct ocean link to B, bring ocean water in through Playa del Rey, develop sandy beach in B
Naturalize how water gets into B – gates limit fish
Little League: could become upland area – discuss use of native plants at Little League fields, Could we move them? (acknowledged political sensitivity)
Talk to Caltrans about _?? Missed a comment_
Invasive species: much discussion – couldn't agree- some want to recover all lost biodiversity, whereas others don't want to reintroduce any extirpated species
Reintroduction of species – concerning issue, no consensus

Treatment wetlands at base of bluffs: should deal with water quality externally (not onsite)

Public access:

Preferred Concept 3 because allowed the most access

Balance need for access v. recovery of ecosystems

Separate active from passive

Protect sensitive areas being repaired, keep public out

Would like complete perimeter trail

Bike trail full length Lincoln,

Move dune trail to perimeter of property, keep along channel

No winding trail through A

Keep damage to minimum: limit # of visitors, develop ways to keep people on walkways

Education centers – offsite education centers should be incorporated – even in supermarkets

GROUP 4

Presented by Tom Francis and Jim Donovan;

General themes

Actually found some consensus:

Increase salt marsh as much as possible

Increase continuity

Enhance natural connections

Have Ballona Creek meander through the Wetlands

Remove levee b/w Marina del Rey and Ballona Creek – let creek meander across a bigger area

Biotech reinforced banks, not concrete - reduce herbicide use

Parking at docks near A

Establish seasonal wetland in old alignment of Ballona Creek (in C?)

Move Little League to state of art facility in neighborhood

Remove Culver b/w Jefferson and Lincoln, elevate rest of Culver

Raise roads to increase connections

Move Freshwater Marsh to area east of Lincoln – public land should be habitat not treatment wetlands

Enhance riparian area along bluff

Comments linked to one map – seemed like might get lost – all comments on one map

Buy land around the ecosystem – bluff property, gas co, bluff base near Nicholas/Culver, Toes beach, property at Del Rey lagoon

Recreate historical connection to ocean and thru Del Rey lagoon and around dunes

Concept 1

Too simple, at minimum eliminate section of Culver Blvd

At minimum expand tidal wetland area on A

Soften treatment of river bank

Encourage more connection/flow between Ballona Creek and B

Least tern nesting sites - put in

Larger areas of habitat – not too many small islands

Gas Co.'s monitoring wells – can they get rid of those wells and associated road network

Gas Co roads bifurcate ecosystem

Public access – all comments on 2

Thought 3 has too much, less = more

Periphery treatments, consolidate trails where suggest separate bike/pedestrian trails could be combined to accommodate both users

New trail along Lincoln b/w A & C; new trail along Culver where road abandoned

Include link across Ballona Creek at Lincoln, just to the west

Discourage dead end trails leads to people making their own trails

Move dirt to former ball fields create view point of wetland

A: create places for people to look in, not go in

Make sure this project is coordinated with what is going on in upper watershed – reduce pollution, flows - storm volumes – through links to upper watershed could help increase possibilities at Ballona such as changes to flood control channel

Do whatever you can to clean up the water

GROUP 3

Presented by Catherine Tyrell and Tom Ford

General themes

Didn't spend too much time on 1-2; not interesting

Concept 3

Liked balance and diversity, range of habitat
More transitions between habitat
Eucalyptus have habitat value- look at retaining: monarchs
More opportunities to protect existing cultural resources
Keep Little League
Use C as area for people interaction, visitor center

Concept 4

Restores historic condition
Impacts to existing species on the site through inundation
Greater financial cost
Full tidal/inundation would block off views by limiting public access (i.e.- good and bad aspects) Protect existing businesses, etc. raise Culver blvd

suggest new concept:

Muted tidal in current Area of B; keep existing habitat protect Belding Savannah Sparrow
Full tidal in eastern part of B – east side of gas co rd

Debate: manage hydrologic connections or break down structures and have open connections

Area A:

How much transitional habitat vs tidal wetland?
Opportunity- area much higher: could develop treescape
Protect rare plants (inc. Tarplant) or transplant them to an area that is even better for them

Keep trestles from historic railroad in Area B and observation platform

Public Access:

Concept 1 not enough needs more connectivity
Concept 3 too much
Opportunity to create connectivity in area
Pathways along Culver Blvd. should be shielded from busy road
Connection across the channel link
Liked the access points, add a few more – off the Ballona Creek bike path, one off of Admiralty Way
Increase bike, pedestrian accessibility

Keep as much area as historic salt marsh as possible, keep trails to perimeter

Make access visible to prevent camping/partying

GROUP 2

Presented by Otella Wruck

General themes

Plans presented are very visionary

Use bond money to consolidate & elevate Culver and Jefferson

Concerned about adequate uplands and good mix of habitat

Ballfields: could be habitat, could be multi-purpose facility for community

Reconfigure and consolidate for smaller footprint?

Recognize their importance but should consider options.

Important to have self maintaining natural system: low or no tech should be part of the overall vision if possible

Phasing is critical, most likely will be phased, be receptive to that; plan need to be resilient

Full tidal in one area- more research to decide which

Mixed habitat in other areas

Keep sea level rise in account for longterm planning

Vernal pools seasonal ponds should be included: frogs – remember that experience from childhood

Vernal pools really important

Preserve existing high value habitats

Respect the wildlife that is out there

Evaluate the areas for what we must keep

Access:

As much as possible; most wanted more than just periphery; max access will protect resource

Integrate A B & C – you should be able to walk thru entire wetlands, see it all – where exact connections should be decide later

Periphery access good

Use Rail car as bridges

Pay attention to what's there

Access points limit total #, shut down at night to protect wetlands

Access may have to change with seasons to protect resources

People like loop trails

Trail to cottonwoods in dunes – serene spot to visit

Caution about fragile habitat

Evaluate whether to use exiting dune trail

Create meditative spots – outlooks

GROUP 1

Presented by Edith Read;

General themes

Commonalities:

Water quality in Ballona Creek – what would connection to Creek mean for habitat in wetland?

Add connection from ocean to B if water quality is too big of problem have additional tidal source

Public access:

Prefer perimeter loop trails, extreme concept of trails through habitat increases fragmentation of areas and trash problem- not well received

Access good, confine to berms, perimeter

Have good artistic signage to go with the access

Concern about existing roads:

Do something about Culver and Jefferson – provide more continuing habitat, reconfigure and elevate roads

If habitat is restored and roads continue to exist, provide for wildlife crossing, consider corridor and road kill issues

Underground utilities to eliminate wire as danger to wildlife

Cut down on lighting impacts to habitat

Concept 1:

Minimally intrusive, doesn't do too much too fast

Could be Phase I, good first step, does not preclude other concepts

Concern about introducing water to eucalyptus trees because roosting habitat for birds, preserve the trees until other tree habitat gets established

Freshwater Marsh: no one advocated for removal

If anything, daylight outlet and provide habitat along channel

Study more before bringing salt water in thru that channel

Would there be enough fresh water to sustain riparian area along bluffs

Concept 2:

Link Area A to Creek

Early on decide on hydrologic connections, put infrastructure in place early on so you can make linkages in future, gets more expensive and harder to do

Concept 3

Modify Fiji Ditch to be meandering channel

Meander Ballona Creek- COE considering meandering Creek in their study!

Introduce tidal channels into different areas (see map)

Concept 4

Concerns about full tidal, “whoa, wait a minute”

Lots of existing habitat values, know what they are and work with those values

Back it away from edges a little – protect willow corridor at base bluffs

Protect the eucalyptus grove – roosting/raptor habitat, don't kill it with tidal water

Preserve habitat and foraging for Belding Savannah Sparrows until other areas being used
mudflat and island habitat for birds, have refugia
General consensus lose a lot of habitat if make everything tidal